What Is Claimed Is:

1. A passenger protection device, in particular for a motor vehicle,
- having at least one airbag (1),
- having at least one gas generator (2) for filling the airbag (1),
- having an airbag control device (3) for activating the airbag (1),
- having means (7) for acquiring the deployment speed of the airbag (1),
and
- having means (6) for regulating the filling quantity of the airbag (1), taking into account its deployment speed,
characterized by
at least one flow-off valve (10) that is situated between the gas generator (2) and the airbag (1), and by controllable actuating means (15) for sealing the flow-off valve.

2. The passenger protection device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the actuating means (15) for sealing the flow-off valve (10) are controlled via the airbag control device (3).

3. The passenger protection device as recited in one of Claims 1 or 2,
wherein the actuating means (15) for sealing the flow-off valve (10) include at least one piezoactuator (17) connected to a mechanical or hydraulic lever device (18).

4. The passenger protection device as recited in one of Claims 1 or 2,
wherein the actuating means (15) for sealing the flow-off valve (10) include at least one electromagnet.

5. The passenger protection device as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4,
wherein for filling the airbag (1) a cold gas generator having a pressure vessel (21) is used that is filled with a noble gas mixture under pressure and is sealed by a burst disk (22) that can be destroyed with the aid of a pyrotechnic charge (23).

6. The passenger protection device as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5,
wherein the means (7) for acquiring the deployment speed of the airbag (1) include a transceiver device (24) with which optical signals can be sent into the deploying airbag (1), and the inside of the airbag (1) is provided at least in parts with a light-reflecting coating (25).

7. The passenger protection device as recited in Claim 6, wherein the deployment speed of the airbag (1) is determined by measuring propagation time, utilizing the Doppler effect or a triangulation method.